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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,369	12/14/2001	Akira Sawamori	1076.1071	1146
21171	7590	07/09/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			CHAN, EMILY Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2829	

DATE MAILED: 07/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/014,369

Applicant(s)

SAWAMORI, AKIRA

Examiner

Emily Y Chan

Art Unit

2829

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 5, 8 and 11-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 8, line 12, "the first rail 25" should be "the first rail 26 and
on page 10, line 20, "20a – 30 " should be "30a – 30e".

Claims

Claim 1 is objected because the inspection electrode recited in claim 1 is not consistent with the recitation in claim 2. For example, in claim 1, the inspection electrode is **included** in the inspection unit whereas in claim 2, the inspection electrode is **fastened** to the inspection unit. The examiner suggests changing the inspection electrode is fastened to "a fastening block " according to the specification and Fig 11a.

Further more "the two pressurizing levers" recited in claims 10-11 and 13, lack antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Fukuda Hisashi ('JP 10-153631).

Regarding to claim 1, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose a panel inspection device (see Fig. 1) for inspecting a display panel (23), wherein the display

panel (23) has a side on which a panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e) is arranged, the panel inspection device comprising:

an inspection unit (31a-31e) including an inspection electrode (inspection probes 33a-33e), wherein the inspection unit (31a-31e) causes the inspection electrode (inspection probes 33a-33e) to contact panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e) and moves in a direction (see paragraph 0037, line 3, longitudinal direction") perpendicular the side of display panel (23); and

a pressurizing mechanism (See Fig 2, "press means" 37,38,39 and paragraph 0036) for pressing the inspection electrode (inspection probes 33a-33e) against the panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e), wherein the pressurizing mechanism moves independently in a direction (see paragraph 0037, line 3, longitudinal direction") perpendicular to the side of the display panel (23) in a state in which the inspection unit (31a-31e) is arranged at a position where the inspection electrode (inspection probes 33a-33e) contacts the panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e).

2. Regarding to claim 3, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) further disclose a positioning device (see Fig .1, 35a-35e) connected to the inspection unit (31a-31e); and a jig (43) for supporting the positioning device (35a-35e), wherein the positioning device (35a-35e) is secured to the jig (43) in correspondence with the panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e).

3. Regarding to claim 4, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose that their panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e) are formed in accordance with the dimension of the display panel (see Fig. 1), the panel electrode groups (electrode

groups 25a-25e) are spaced from one another by a predetermined pitch (see paragraph 0030), the positioning device (35a-35e) is one of a plurality of positioning devices provided in correspondence with the panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e), and the positioning devices (35a-35e) are secured to the jig (43) spaced from one another by a predetermined pitch (see paragraph 0043).

4. Regarding to clam 6, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose that their display panel is either one of a first display panel (23) having a first size (see paragraph 0043, "the examined panel 23 expands" and see Fig. 1 "L1") and including a plurality of first panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e) or a second display panel (see paragraph 0043, "the examined panel 23... contract" and see Fig. 1 "L") having a second size differing from the first size and including a plurality of second panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e), and the jig (43) is either one of a first jig (43) adapted to the first display panel (L1) or a second jig (43) adapted to the second display panel (L), the first jig (43) including a plurality of first positioning devices (35a-35e) prearranged at positions corresponding a the plurality of first panel electrode groups, and the second jig (43) including a plurality of second positioning devices (35a-35e) prearranged at positions corresponding to the second panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e and see Fig 1 and paragraph 0029-0032).

5. Regarding to clam 7, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) further disclose an adjusting means (guide rails 34a-34e, joint section55 and screw 54) arranged on the positioning device (35a-35e) and finely adjusting the position of the inspection unit (31a-

31e) by moving the inspection unit (31a-31e) along the side of the display panel (23) (see Fig. 4, and paragraphs 0034 and 0067).

6. Regarding to claim 15, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose a panel inspection device (see Fig. 1) for inspecting a display panel (23), wherein the display panel has a side on which a plurality of panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e) is arranged, the panel inspection device comprising:

A plurality of inspection unit (31a-31e) including an inspection electrode (inspection probes 33a-33e), wherein the inspection unit (31a-31e) causes the inspection electrode (inspection probe s 33a-33e) to contact panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e) and moves in a direction (see paragraph 0037,line 3, longitudinal direction") perpendicular to the side of display panel (23); and a plurality of pressurizing mechanisms (See Fig 2, "press means" 37,38,39 and paragraph 0036) for pressing the inspection electrodes (inspection probe s 33a-33e) against the panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e), wherein the pressurizing mechanism moves independently in a direction (see paragraph 0037,line 3, longitudinal direction") perpendicular to the side of the display panel (23) in a state in which the inspection unit (31a-31e) is arranged at a position where the inspection electrode (inspection probe s 33a-33e) contacts the panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 2 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) as applied to claims 1, 3-4, 6 -7 and 15 above, and further in view of applicant admitted prior art Fig. 2.

7. Regarding to claim 2, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) do not disclose that their inspection electrode (33a-33e) is fastening to "the inspection unit" in a state inclined toward the display panel (23) by a predetermined angle.

However, the applicant admitted prior art Fig. 11B exclusively shows that an inspection electrode 25a is fastening to "the inspection unit" (54a) in a state inclined toward the display panel (23a) by a predetermined angle (f2).

Therefor It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to add the feature of fastening the inspection electrode to the fasten block 54a as shown by the prior art into Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631)'s inspection device for the purpose of supporting the inspection electrode and enhancing the electric connection between the inspection electrode and the display panel electrodes.

8. Regarding to claims 9-10, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose a drive circuit (12) for providing the display panel (23) with an inspection signal (electrical signal see paragraph 0048).

Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) do not disclose a relay printed circuit and a connector recited in claim 9. Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) also do not disclose do not disclose a passage recited in claim 10.

However, the applicant admitted prior art Fig. 2 exclusively shows a drive circuit (87), a relay printed circuit (88), a connector (electrical cable joint) connected to the relay printed circuit (88) and to the driver circuit (87), and a passage (86) enabling passage of the relay printed circuit (88) that is formed on one of two pressuring levers (84, 85).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to apply the fasten means, drive circuit, printed circuit, connector and passage as taught by the prior art into Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) 's panel inspection device for the expected benefit of the inspection signal direct delivery to the inspection electrode for accurately contacting the electrode of the display panel during inspection as shown in Figs 2 and 11b.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 5,8,11-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 5,8,11-14 are indicated allowable because the claimed features that the jig includes a surplus position device separated from the positioning devices recited in claim 5, the two pressuring levers move toward the display panel in a first direction that is perpendicular to the one side of the display panel and moves away from the display panel in a second direction that is opposite the first direction recited in claim 8, the pivoting amount adjusting element for the upper pressurizing lever recited in claim 11-

12 and the fulcrum block for supporting the two pressurizing levers recited in claims 13-14 are not taught and suggested by the prior art.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Okuno et al ('145) disclose a panel inspection apparatus and teach inspection probe blocks or groups are mounted in parallel and the probes of each the probe block are contacted with electrodes of a display panel. Okuno et al ('145) also teach guide rail and pressing means.

Kajiware et al ('542) disclose a display panel inspection socket and teach contact pressure means.

Conclusion

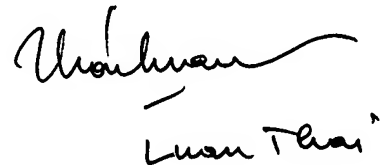
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emily Y Chan whose telephone number is 5712721956. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cuneo Kammie can be reached on 5712721957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2829

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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